

Prudence Island Water District

Minutes of meeting: July 22, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; and Robert Hanson. Absent were Richard Brooks and Phillip Brooks.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Mr. Buffum to approve the minutes of July 8. Ms. Richard said that the minutes had to be amended to include approval of the meeting minutes for the meeting held on June 10. Mr. Buffum moved for approval of the minutes of July 8 as amended, seconded by Mr. Hanson, approved unanimously.

Administrative: Ms. Richard reported speaking to Mr. Driscoll about the Rural Development funding, but has had no resolution of the matter. She said that if Mr. Driscoll were unable to clarify the situation she would contact Rural Development Council directly.

Ms. Richard reported that she had received a phone call from Dave Delisle regarding the engineering and environmental reports. She said that she had neglected to include the CRMC response to the letter of inquiry, but had forwarded it to Mr. Delisle and that he would be sending the reports on to USDA engineering dept.

Ms. Richard informed the board that she would be purchasing a small amount of office supplies.

Technical: Groundwater workshop held on July 13, 9 a.m. at DEM office in Providence. Ms. Richard reviewed her notes of the meeting, which were:

- 1. Attendees were informed that disconnecting from a community water system (regulated utility) to connect to a private well was a violation of the plumbing code. Ms Richard said that she was very surprised to learn of this regulation, but that the gentleman from DOH insisted that it was so, and that it was up to the utility and the town to enforce this law.**
- 2. Someone at the meeting stated that the town had the authority to require contiguous lots owned by the same person to be merged.**
- 3. Someone suggested that the district seek source protection through EPA by having Mill Creek declared a sole source aquifer.**
- 4. Several attendees asked if access to PIUC pumping records was available.**
- 5. A suggestion that the existing wells be explored with a heat pulse flow meter to determine at what depth water was entering the wells. Mr. Buffum said that the value of this test would be to determine at what depth other wells might be sunk, what potential for replenishment was in a particular area. Ms. Richard asked if it was possible to remediate deep wells if it was determined that sufficient water was in reality available at a higher depth. Mr. Buffum said that a Jaswell(?) seal could be inserted into the well to block off the lower depth.**

6. Very low frequency scans to determine location of water-bearing fractures could be a cost effective means of source exploration. Ms. Richard received an email from Romeo Mendes informing the board that an expert in this field would be in RI soon. The board agreed that contacting the gentleman would be premature. Ms. Richard said that if she could get a sense of the cost, she could go looking for an appropriate funding mechanism.

7. Bob Stankelis of NBNERR participate in stream flow monitoring in Mill Creek area.

8. Suggestion that private well owners be encouraged to perform salinity tests.

9. General agreement among attendees that there is cause for concern about groundwater availability on Prudence Island.

10. No representative of the Town of Portsmouth attended the meeting.

11. Some attendees (DEM, DOH) expressed concern about private wells being dug on the island and if regulations were being followed.

12. Mr. Buffum said that USGS representative had stressed that a large-scale fracture study would not be a cost effective means of source exploration. Possible to spend \$500,000 and still not have a conclusive study.

Ms. Richard said that she had written thank you letters to all who attended the groundwater workshop or had any part in planning the meeting.

Funding: Ms. Richard said that she would be trying to get a sense of the costs involved in some of the technologies suggested in the workshop and finding suitable funding.

Correspondence: No further correspondence.

No other business. Mr. Buffum moved for adjournment to executive session, seconded by Ms. Richard, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Patricia Richard, Clerk